

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Independent Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kaki (U.S. Patent 6,549,974). Independent Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kaki in view of Kibayashi (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/007533).

Without concession as to the propriety of the rejections, Claims 11 and 17 have been amended to recite certain features of the invention with greater particularity. Claims 13-15 have also been amended. The objection to Claim 13 has been addressed. As to Claim 18, the language of lines 3-4 is believed to be appropriate. The signal of line 5 has antecedent basis in the last paragraph of Claim 27. While the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claim 15 is acknowledged with appreciation, Applicants respectfully submit that the allowability of all claims will be apparent based on the remarks below.

Independent Claim 11 has been amended to recite that amount of data storable into said nonvolatile memory at one time is equal to an amount of data that can be stored in a

plurality of said banks of said buffer memory. A controller performs control operations to receive data from outside of the nonvolatile storage device via the data terminal, to store received data to the banks of the buffer memory, and to transfer received data from the banks of the buffer memory to the nonvolatile memory. The controller detects whether received data has been transferred from each bank of the buffer memory to the nonvolatile memory, performs control operations to select, for storing further received data, one of the banks of the buffer memory that is not storing received data yet to be transferred to the nonvolatile memory, and performs control operations to issue a program command to the nonvolatile memory when the controller controls transfer of the amount of data to the nonvolatile memory.

Amended Independent Claim 17 recites that data stored in a plurality of the memory areas can be stored to the nonvolatile memory at one time. A controller is adapted to issue a program instruction to said nonvolatile memory after a transfer of data from the plurality of memory areas to the nonvolatile memory.

Kaki, which is relied upon as the primary reference to support the various art based rejections, does not anticipate the amended independent claims. In that the remaining references, taken either alone or in combination, fail to overcome the deficiencies of Kaki, Applicants

respectfully submit the application is in condition for allowance.

An early Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (XA-9632A) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Mitchell W. Shapiro
Reg. No. 31,568

Miles & Stockbridge, P.C.
1751 Pinnacle Drive
Suite 500
McLean, Virginia 22102-3833
(703) 903-9000

Jason H. Vick
Reg. No. 45,285

December 1, 2005